

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08095 151924Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
SAB-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
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O 151857Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8788

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8095

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS PGOV PBOR PN
SUBJ: PANAMA CANAL AGREEMENT
REF: STATE 191921

FOR ARA STEDMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. IN CONNECTION WITH REFTEL, WHILE I WILL TALK TO APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF GOV, I CALL YOUR ATTENTION IN THE MEANTIME TO THE EXCELLENT STATEMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT PEREZ IN A PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH HE GAVE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE US PRESS CONTINGENT ACCOMPANYING AMB YOUNG ON AUG 12, AND WHICH I BELIEVE, WE SHOULD ASSIST IN DISSEMINATING IN US. (THE FULL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS FORWARDED VIA USINFO).
2. IN REPLY TO A GENERAL QUESTION BY EDITH LEDERER OF THE AP ABOUT THE BOGOTA MEETING AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GROUPING OF NATIONS THAT MET THERE, CAP SAID IN PART:

QUOTE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING IN BOGOTA, WHICH MARKED AMEMENT OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA, LIES IN THE FACT THAT WE CAME TOGETHER TO SHOW SOLIDARITY OF THE LATAIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH RESPECT TO A PROBLEM AFFECTING ONE REPUBLIC OF THE AREA - PANAMA - AND CONSEQUENTLY AFFECTS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. AND HERE I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE
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OPPORTUNITY, AS I SIT HERE BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATION OF THE UC COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, TO SAY THAT I WISH TO CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT CARTER, VERY SINCERELY, FOR HIS GREAT SENSE OF JUSTICE AND FOR THE WAY HE HAS BROUGHT HIS GREAT SENSE OF ETHICS TO HIS GREAT COUNTRY BY FACILITATING THESE NEGOTIATIONS, AS IT HAS DONE, BY WHICH PANAMA MAY RECOVER SOVEREIGNHTY OVER AN IMPORTANT PART OF ITS

TERRITORY. I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS BASIC ELEMENT OF US POLICY
IS GOING TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER - RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH
AMERICA AND LATIN AMERICA. IN THE TELEGRAM IN WHICH I CONGRATULATED
PRESIDENT CARTER WHEN HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE US,
I WROTE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL PROBLEM WOULD PUT TO THE TEST THE
SINCERITY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD LATIN AMERICA. AND
TODAY I MUST SAY THAT I FEEL A GREAT DEAL OF SATISFACTION AND
HAPPINESS WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND THAT I PLACE GREAT TRUST IN
THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND LATIN
AMERICA. WE ALSO HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE US WILL LIVE
UP TO ITS HEMISPHERIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT WE WILL
WITNESS THE APPROVAL OF THE TREATY WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED, BECAUSE
THIS WILL BRING ABOUT A CLOSER LINK BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES, AS
REPRESENTED IN THE CONGRESSES OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CONGRESS OF THE US. UNQUOTE.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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